

GHOST IN THE SHELL
MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 4 OF 11

STORY AND ART BY
MASAMUNE SHIROW

TRANSLATION BY
FREDERIK L. SCHOOT AND TOREN SMITH

この物語に登場する
様々な設定や解説や概
念は全て妄想の産物で
あり、現実とは無関係
の娯楽物です。服用を
誤る事無くお楽しみ頂
ければ幸いです。
またデッチ上げやギミ
ックの「誤用」による
二次被害には当方責任
を負いかねます点を御
了承願います。

LETTERING BY
**TOM ORZECZOWSKI
AND DAN JACKSON**

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OPEN

MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE CONTROL PREFERENCES



WARNING: READ ME FIRST!

Readers may note that certain panels seem to have been inadvertently left unreversed or have incongruous backwards lettering. These were artistic decisions made by Mr. Shirow during the production of the mirror-imaged foreign edition of *Man-Machine Interface*. — Dark Horse Comics and Studio Proteus

The various situations, explanations, and concepts that appear in this book are a product of my wild imagination, a form of entertainment with no connection to reality. Take according to directions, and enjoy. Be advised that the author assumes no responsibility for any collateral damage resulting from improper use of the various constructs, fabrications, and gimmicks in the story.

APOLOGIES AND CORRECTIONS

In the *Ghost in the Shell* graphic novel published in 1991, the heroine, Motoko Kusanagi, fused with a self-described "intelligent life-form" and left Section 9 of the Public Security Bureau. This story takes place approximately four years and five months later. As a result, this story is quite different from what was originally called *Ghost in the Shell* and featured Public Security's Section 9 (the Special Assault Force). I thought of visually differentiating the new Japanese title from the old one by merely changing the last kanji character, from one that means "military unit" to the homophonic kanji for "body" or "form" (which would shift the meaning of "mobile force" or "riot squad" to something like "mobile-unit-body-entity"), but for a variety of reasons I decided not to do so. To those readers expecting a direct continuation of the prior storyline, I apologize and beg for your understanding. I'm sorry, folks!

— Masamune Shirow

Send comments to:

Interface
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Milwaukie OR 97222 USA

interface@darkhorse.com



POSEIDON INDUSTRIAL. DEPTH: 20 METERS
THIS IS THE INSIDE OF A FLOATING BLOCK BUILT TO THE SPECS (ON PAPER, AT LEAST) OF A SUBMARINE SUPPORT SHIP ALLEGED TO BE OWNED BY CUBA.
IT'S MOTOKO'S "SECRET BASE."



SO, MR. REPIANO... YOU'RE SAYING THAT RELIGION, OR GOD, ~~HAVE~~ ALLOW LIFE-SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AS IT RELATES TO BRAINS AND ENERGY?

IF GOD IS OMNIPOTENT, IT'S SIMPLY A LOGICAL DECISION.

BESIDES, IN MOST RELIGIONS, MEDICINE HAS AN ETHICAL AND LOGICAL BASIS --

NO! I SAY WE SHOULD ABIDE BY THE PRINCIPLES OF NATURE.

E-BRAINS, PROSTHETIC BODIES, AND ORGAN BANKS ARE ALL BLASPHEMOUS!

SO THE DYING SHOULD JUST GO AHEAD AND DUE?!

SO YOU THINK IT'S MORE "NATURAL" ~~NOT~~ TO HELP PEOPLE EVEN IF WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO DO SO?

LISTEN, HELPING PEOPLE IS AN ALTRUISTIC AND **SPIRITUAL** ACT.

REPLACING BODIES THE WAY YOU WOULD MANUFACTURE GOODS IS AN **ENTIRELY** DIFFERENT MATTER. THE CARLOS INCIDENT TWELVE YEARS AGO SHOULD HAVE SERVED AS A **MORAL LESSON** FOR US!

ACCORDING TO LAST YEAR'S STATISTICS, 2-4% MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE ALREADY MORE THAN 10% ARTIFICIAL.

NOT ALL POPULATIONS ARE GOING TO RECEIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS.

EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN PROBLEMS, AND THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT MY COMPANY CAN DO...



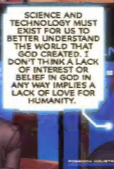
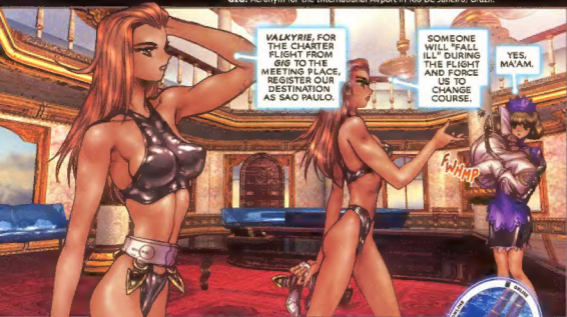
LEXI CONAN! GUARD THE NEST. DON'T FORGET TO DO A FULL PULSE SWEEP AND ESTABLISH AN ELECTRICAL SHIELD DEFENSE!

ROGER! WE'LL PLACE A FOUR MEG-A-MP POTENTIAL ON THE SEA WATER IN THE DOCK.

HMM... I HAVEN'T BEEN ON LAND FOR A LONGS TIME... FEELS STRANGE.



Note: Like a fish's gills, Motoke's hair breathes in oxygen underwater. It can expand and contract, and it has air passages, so it's very light, compact, and easy to carry. Using optical camouflage principles, its color can also be varied, to a certain degree.





MARUYAMA!
GET ME
CONFIRMATION
FROM HQ WITH
P41 ON THE
DOUBLE!

YES,
SIR!



THE
PLEASURE'S
MINE. AND
WHAT A
SURPRISE TO
BE MET
PERSONALLY
BY YOU, MR.
LEE--CHIEF
OF SECURITY.



MOTOKO
ARAMAKI...
WHAT A
SURPRISE
TO SEE YOU
HERE...

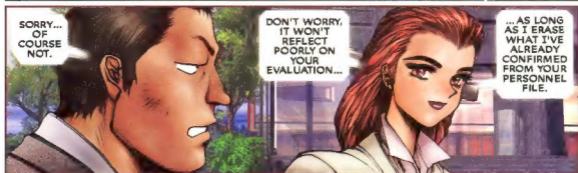




YOU SURE
IT'S OKAY TO
LEAVE THE
PRESIDENT'S
SIDE?

SURE, JUST WANTED
TO SEE WHAT THE
NEW CHIEF THEY'VE
BEEN TALKING ABOUT
AT HQ LOOKS LIKE.

WELL, I'M
FLATTERED,
BUT OF
COURSE THE
FACE ISN'T
REALLY
"MINE."



SORRY...
OF
COURSE
NOT.

DON'T WORRY,
IT WON'T
REFLECT
POORLY ON
YOUR
EVALUATION...

... AS LONG
AS I ERASE
WHAT I'VE
ALREADY
CONFIRMED
FROM YOUR
PERSONNEL
FILE.



DAMN...
A REAL
TOUGH
BROAD.



ANYWAY, I
HOPE I LIVE UP
TO YOUR
EXPECTATIONS.

POSEIDON INDUSTRIAL



SO...WHAT KIND OF SECURITY DO YOU HAVE HERE? THIS ISN'T BACKED UP BY A "HARD COPY REQUEST," SO I KNOW THE ANSWER SHOULD BE "I CAN'T REALLY SAY"

TRUE...MAYBE I SHOULDN'T SHOW YOU, BUT THERE'S NO SENSE IN HIDING IT WHEN YOU HAVE ACCESS TO ALL OUR PLANNING FILES

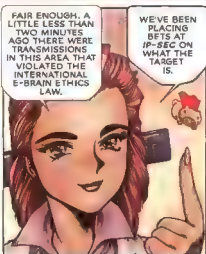


HMM...IT MATCHES THE RESULTS SCANNED FROM THE SECURITY MONITORING NETWORK.

GIVE ME A REPORT ON E-BRAIN ACTIVATION IN THE FACILITIES.



EXCUSE ME, BUT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH WE CAN HELP IF WE CAN'T GET AN ADEQUATE BRIEFING...YES?



FAIR ENOUGH. A LITTLE LESS THAN TWO MINUTES AGO THERE WERE TRANSMISSIONS IN THIS AREA THAT VIOLATED THE INTERNATIONAL E-BRAIN ETHICS LAW.

WE'VE BEEN PLACING BETS AT IP-SEC ON WHAT THE TARGET IS.



SINCE THE SITE OF THE SIGNING'S BEEN PUBLICIZED, WE CAN EVEN PREDICT SOME SORT OF PHYSICAL ATTACK.

HABU, YOU HEAR THAT? SWITCH COMMS TO RETRO MODE

YES, SIR



IT'S A DELAY-TYPE VIRUS, SO THE STAFF WILL ALL HAVE TO MONITOR EACH OTHER CLOSELY.



SO HOW WOULD YOU SET THIS UP IF YOU WERE PLANNING AN ATTACK?

amag

MAYBE USE AN INTERPRETER OR SECRETARY? SOMEONE CLOSE TO THE VIP... IT'D BE EASY TO INFECT 'EM THROUGH THEIR SPEECH SOFTWARE.

BUT WHAT IF THE VIP'S E-BRAIN WAS DIRECTLY HACKED?

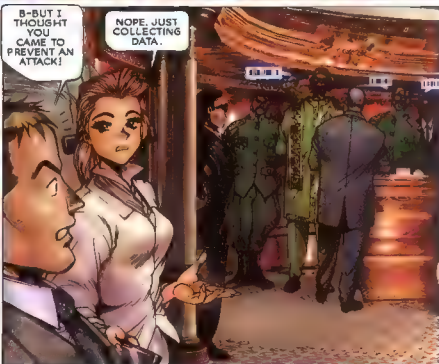
HUH! JUST HAVE TO PRAY THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN, I GUESS.

YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE IF YOU HAD CONFIDENCE IN OUR ATTACK BARRIER... RIGHT?

THE RUMORS ABOUT ME HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN INCORRECT. I'M JUST HERE TO OBSERVE, THEN I'M OUTTA HERE.

B-BUT I THOUGHT YOU CAME TO PREVENT AN ATTACK!

NOPE. JUST COLLECTING DATA.



Simply scrambling the interpreting could create an interesting disruption. In this case, however, every person's capable of interpreting and they're constantly checking what others are saying, so scrambling one person's speech wouldn't affect the entire meeting. The building's heavily guarded, so just tossing a bomb isn't going to work, either. The only way to disrupt a meeting like this is to plant a saboteur on the inside. Beyond the actual targets, the virus in question here creates lots of collateral casualties on the periphery.



EVERYONE
ASSUME
FORMATION
F2, WITH
WEAPONS IN
STUN MODE.

MR.
PRESIDENT,
SIR!

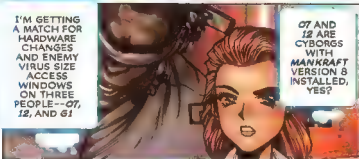
GOOD
HEAVENS!

A REAL
MAN OF
ACTION!



SIR, THERE'S A
POSSIBILITY OF AN
E-BRAIN INFECTION
HERE. WE'D LIKE
PERMISSION TO
DELAY THE SIGNING
FOR TEN MINUTES
AND RE-CHECK
ALL ATTENDEES
WITH E-BRAIN
CAPABILITIES.

VERY WELL.
I'LL EXCHANGE
PLEASANTRIES
FOR FIVE
MINUTES TO
DELAY THE
SIGNING AND
THEN SPEND
SOME TIME
TALKING ABOUT
THE LAYOUT.



I'M GETTING
A MATCH FOR
HARDWARE
CHANGES
AND ENEMY
VIRUS SIZE
ACCESS
WINDOWS
ON THREE
PEOPLE--07,
12, AND 61

07 AND
12 ARE
CYBORGS
WITH
MANKRAFT
VERSION 8
INSTALLED,
YES?

AGAIN?!
YOU GUYS
SURE ARE
CAUTIOUS.
I KNOW
YOU
MISTRUST
MY
COUNTRY'S
E-BRAINS...

BUT DO YOU
REALLY THINK
WE WOULD
LET IN
E-THUGS THAT
EASILY...?



EXCUSE ME,
MR. BUNNA... I
KNOW YOU'RE
THE HEAD
MILITARY
ATTACHE, BUT
WE'VE GOT A
POSSIBILITY OF
AN E-THUG
HERE

WE'RE GOING TO DELAY
THE MEETING FOR FIVE
MINUTES AND RECHECK
ALL PARTICIPANTS WITH
E-BRAINS, SO IF YOU
COULD STEP THIS WAY. ?



MANKRAFT V8: This famous brand of combat software emphasizes martial arts using simple weapons such as knives, sticks, etc. In this fictional world U.S. army cyborgs officially use it, and apparently the East Monnabia SP do, too. Version 8 onward supports grenade tossing, but there have been an increasing number of physical problems with finger and arm-joint hyperextensions.





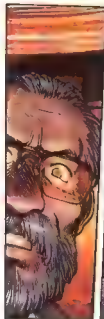
HABU!
THE
PRESIDENT!



ON
IT!!

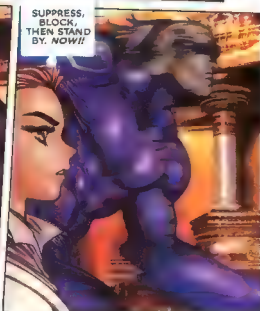


I...I
CAN'T--
STOP?!



SUKK

SUPPRESS,
BLOCK,
THEN STAND
BY. NOW!!



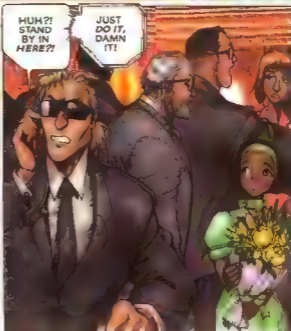


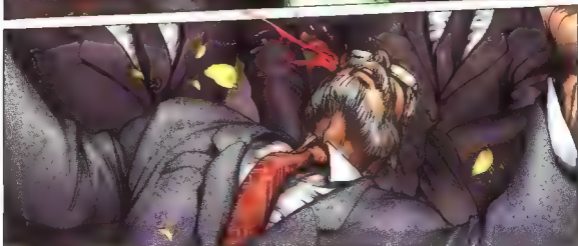
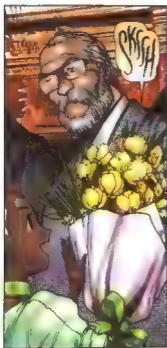


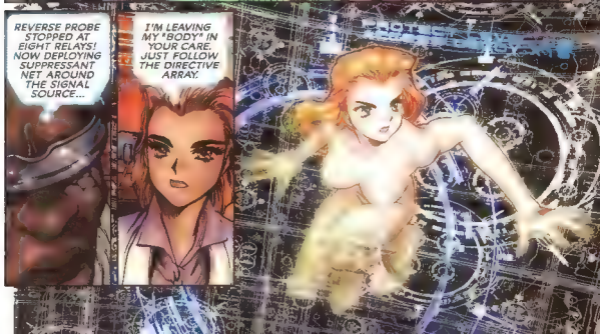
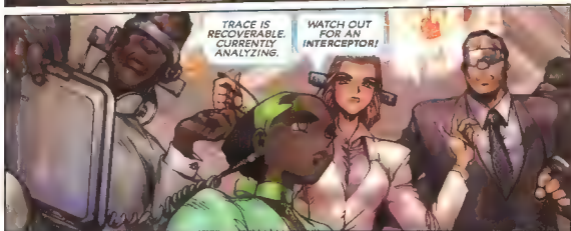
LET HIM DREAM!
I WANT EVERYONE
BACKING EACH OTHER
UP IN YOUR ASSIGNED
TWO-MAN CELLS!
RICK, YOU STAND BY
IN THE SIGNING
ROOM! JIM, CALL
IN THE
SPECIALISTS!

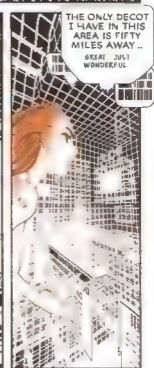
HUH?
STAND
BY IN
HERE?!

JUST
DO IT,
DAMN
IT!





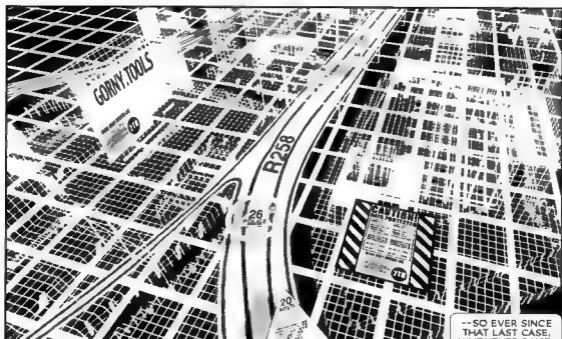




THE ONLY DECOT
I HAVE IN THIS
AREA IS FIFTY
MILES AWAY ..
GREAT JUST
WONDERFUL



HMM...
I NEED
TO FIND A
USABLE BODY
CLOSER TO
THE TARGET
SITE...



--SO EVER SINCE THAT LAST CASE, WHENEVER I USE MY RIGHT ARM TO HOLD MY GUN, IT MALFUNCTIONS. HEY! YOU LISTENING TO ME?



O.A.E. CAR'S PATROL 104 IS RELEASED REPEAT 1044 TO RELEASE



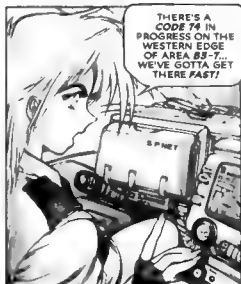
YEAH, YEAH YOU CHECK FOR NEW SOFTWARE PATCHES?

YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME I TRIED TO UPGRADE MY PROSTHETIC BODY CONTROL SOFTWARE? WHAT A TRAIN WRECK!

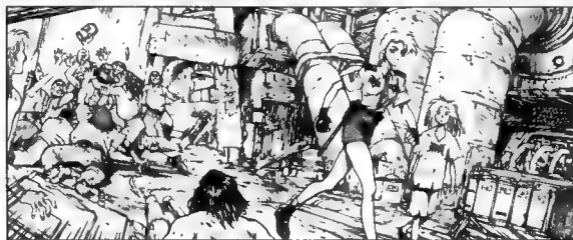
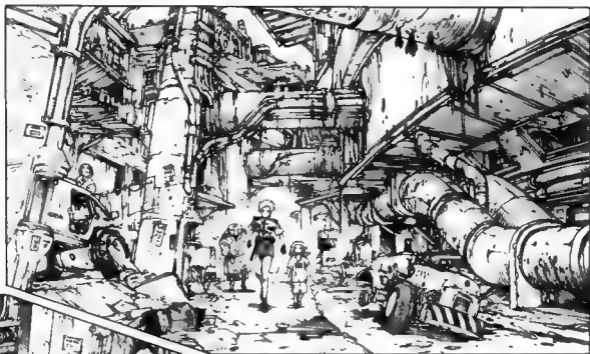
breep breep



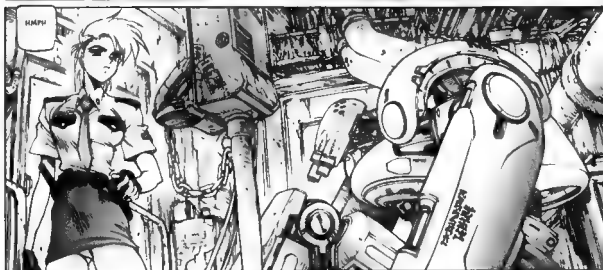
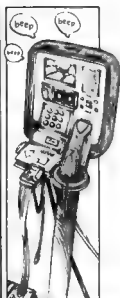


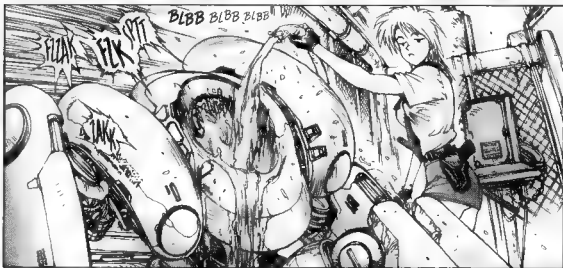


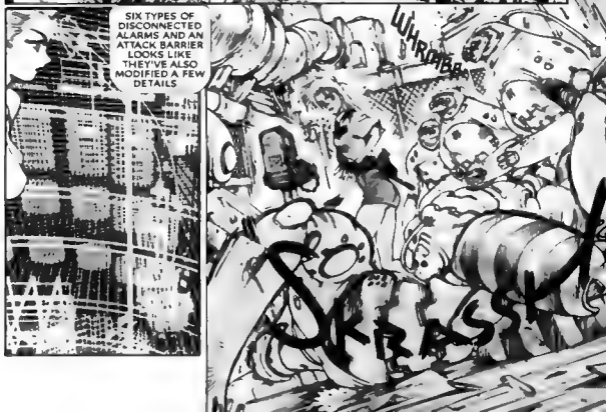
What? No solar panels on the outside of an electric car? You say some even a ready have 'em? Well, I suppose even a "water car" with fuel cells that electronically break down water to gain hydrogen could use them. Hmm, got to give some more thought to the external texturing of my near-future cars...



In recent years the media's been talking about a "digital divide," the gap growing between those who can and do use computers and those who can't or won't (ah, you say you know all about this?). But there's another type of digital divide, and that revolves around electronic information, information that has or hasn't been digitized. In this context we've got to be extra careful when people start tossing around terms like "I.T." and watch out for malignant, misleading, and downright false information, not to mention viruses!





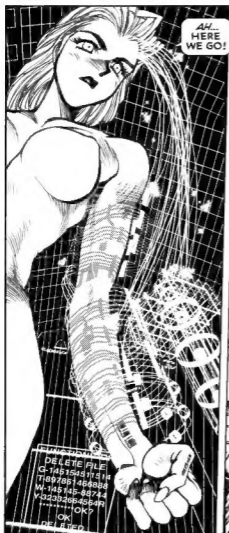


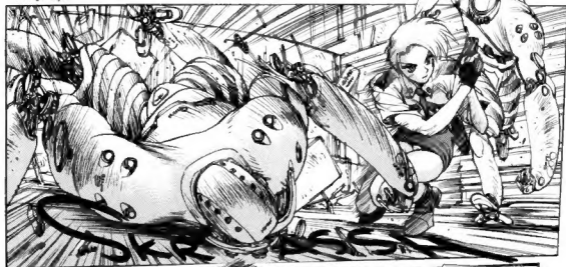


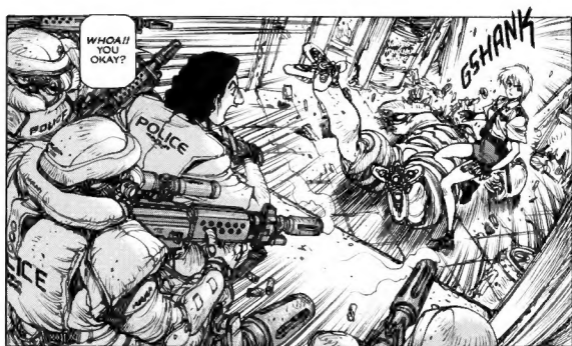
FIVE DIFFERENT FIRE-
CONTROL SOFTWARE
VERSIONS INSTALLED...?
NO WONDER THERE'S
A FUNCTIONAL
CONFLICT..!











Since this is a comic I couldn't depict the movements right, but the guys (or gals) wearing protector suits feel like they're half-covered in a fungus like "athlete's foot," and their movements feel "hiccupy." VIPs wearing bulletproof vests also have similar problems, apparently.

TO BE CONTINUED...!

GHOST IN THE SHELL MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE



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MASAMUNE SHIROW